



## Testing Program

Also known as the State Capitol Test Rose Garden, the program receives 20 donated roses a year from growers such as:

- ✂ All-American Rose Society
- ✂ Weeks    ✂ Jackson & Perkins
- ✂ Conard-Pyle Co.    ✂ Angelica Nurseries

In the test garden program, rose producers submit specimen roses to rose gardens around the United States under a two-year testing program. A judge, typically a horticulture professor or garden supervisor, is assigned to each test garden and grades the roses by: vigor, growth habit, disease resistance, foliage, flower production, bud and flower form, opening and finishing color, fragrance, stem and overall value. Other criteria for the Capitol rose garden include the condition of the beds and the roses themselves, as well as watering.

The scoring system is based on consumer demand for beautiful and easy-growing roses. Roses come to the test garden with only a number; they are later named, graded, then sold to the public.



Arkansas Secretary of State  
**Charlie Daniels**

Division of Building & Grounds

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Arkansas  
Secretary of State  
**Charlie Daniels**  
presents



the  
State  
Capitol

# Rose Garden





# The Arkansas State Capitol Rose Garden



The Arkansas State Capitol Rose Garden features the beauty of more than 1,080 rose bushes, which bring a flush of color to Capitol Hill each summer.

The 51 varieties of roses in four beds around the State Capitol grounds are a highlight for the Capitol's 100,000 visitors each year.

A stroll along the beds near the State Supreme Court on the Capitol's southwest side takes you by a kaleidoscope of blooms that are just the right height for enjoying their fragrance. Venture to the sunny north lawn and take in a glorious range of colored blooms. The impressive collection of rose varieties includes hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, miniatures, shrub roses and climbers. Visitors will also admire the collection's English rose, which is a combination of antique roses (introduced before 1867, particularly from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries) and modern roses from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



## Pampering and Pruning

Gardeners at the State Capitol gardeners prune the roses each February under the watchful eye of Arkansas rosarians. They come to the capitol to oversee pruning and teach proper techniques in order to encourage bud production and improve the quality of blooms.



Routine care of the roses includes spraying for fungus and insects, as well as regular fertilizing. Beds are kept clear of grass and weeds, and dead leaves and stems are removed from the roses. Generous mulching keeps grass at bay and retains moisture.



Along with the test roses each year, the State Capitol Gardens receive roses that have been on the market

for a few years. The fresh plants are used to replace older roses every three years. Test roses stay in place for two years to be graded. The removed plants take on a new life as they are donated to schools and organizations in order to share the beauty around Arkansas.

